CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A method of anesthetizing a uterus, comprising the steps of:
inserting a cannula having a tip through a cervical canal;
positioning the cannula so that an aperture in the tip is proximate the fundus of the uterus; and
delivering anesthetic through the cannula and out the aperture to the fundus.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein positioning directs the tip towards a tubal ostia.

3. The method of claim 1 comprising the step of, after delivering the anesthetic out the aperture, permitting the anesthetic to flow out of the uterus alongside the cannula through the cervical canal.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the anesthetic has a viscosity greater than that of water.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the anesthetic is in the form of a gel.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the anesthetic comprises a compound of the lidocaine family.

7. A container/applicator apparatus for applying topical anesthetic to the middle to upper corpus regions, the fundus, and the tubal ostia of a uterus, comprising:

a reservoir for containing anesthetic and having a reservoir outlet for releasing the anesthetic; and

a hollow tube having

a proximal end for receiving the anesthetic released from the outlet,

a distal end with a tip,

a length between the proximal end and the tip sufficient to extend through a vagina and a cervical canal into a uterus to its fundus, and

at least one aperture in the tip for discharging the anesthetic from the tube.

8. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the tube has an axial cross-section sufficiently small to allow fluid to flow from the uterus alongside the tube through the cervical canal.

9. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the tube, from midway between the ends towards the distal end, is curved.

10. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the tube is flexible.

11. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the tip is blunt.

12. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the tip has an aperture across the axis of the tube and at least one aperture along the axis of the tube.

13. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the anesthetic has a viscosity greater than that of water.